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September 7, 2017

**Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001**

RE: Docket No. RM 2017-12

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of Meals on Wheels West, our volunteers, donors, staff and, most importantly, those we serve – veterans, the disabled, seniors and all home-bound populations.

An increase in non-profit rates at a time when the need for our services is growing contradicts the reasons for granting non-profits a discounted rate.

MOW West relies on the U.S. Mail to raise funds and communicate with our supporters and constituents. Our newsletter and direct mail campaigns rely on the USPS.

Without the mail, our fundraising would suffer severely and, as a consequence, so would our mission to provide home-delivered meals and a daily Wellness Check to those who rely on us.

As a practical matter, injecting unanticipated increases such as those proposed here by USPS will mean that our fundraising budget will not be able to keep pace with the increase in postage costs. The inevitable result will be a reduction in our use of the mail, a reduction in our revenues, and, in turn, a reduction in our ability to serve our home-bound neighbors.

If our postage rates were to increase, say, 5%, and produce a corresponding 5% loss of revenue, in addition to the proposed Federal budget cutbacks, Meals on Wheels programs will find it difficult to remain the solution to malnutrition and illness in our nation. Respectfully, we ask you to consider the consequences.

We see no pressing need for a change, especially not one that will do harm to all nonprofits using the mail. Please do not change the current system for calculating nonprofit rates that serves the people of the USA so well.

Very Truly Yours,

**Chris Baca
Executive Director**

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COMMISSION**